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# We Are...Marshall, January 8, 2010

Office of Marshall University Communications

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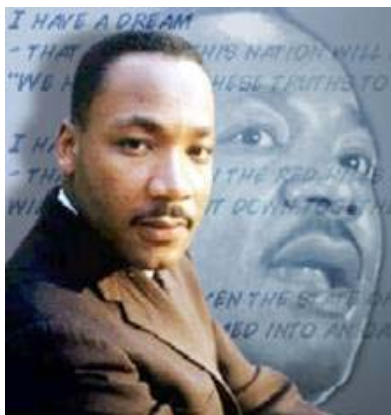
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# WE ARE... MARSHALL®

THE NEWSLETTER FOR MARSHALL UNIVERSITY • JANUARY 8, 2010

## *Martin Luther King Celebration Focuses on Service*

A day of service organized by Marshall University's Office of Multicultural Affairs, is planned for Monday, Jan. 18, to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as the nation commemorates his life and legacy.



*The life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will be celebrated Jan. 18 by the Marshall University and Huntington communities.*

As part of that observance, free meals will be available from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at three Huntington locations, according to Dr. Shari Clarke, Vice President for Multicultural Affairs. The sites are the Marie Redd Senior Center at 1750 9th Ave., the A.D. Lewis Center on Hal Greer Boulevard between 10th and 11th Avenues and the Vanity Fair Apartments at 627 4th Ave.

"These meals are being made available to

the needy, the homeless, the elderly, or anyone who is in need of a warm nutritious meal," Clarke said. "We're excited about offering the meals and we are hoping to have a lot of students and community members to help disseminate them. In addition, Marshall Career Services has designed a brochure which we'll hand out at the Vanity Fair site to help the homeless with the job search interview process."

Organizers are planning to offer 1000 meals with food being donated by Sodexo Campus Services and beverages donated by Pepsi Bottling Company.

Also, a drive to collect toothbrushes to send to the sub-Saharan area of South Africa is under way. People both at Marshall University and in the community are being asked to contribute toothbrushes, which will be sent to areas where there is a struggle with dental hygiene problems. Collection boxes have been placed in campus residence halls and the Memorial Student Center on the Huntington campus and there are several participating churches and civic organizations, Clarke said.

"We became aware of this problem when we had a speaker on campus whose husband is a bishop with the Methodist Church in that area," she said. "We want to collect 5000 toothbrushes to send to those needy families

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## *National Science Foundation Awards Grants to Marshall Faculty*

### *Grant will support nontraditional students*

Dr. Elizabeth Murray, a faculty member in the Department of Integrated Science and Technology (IST), has been awarded a four-year \$586,500 grant to develop a scholarship program for nontraditional students at the university and the Marshall Community and Technology College (MCTC).

According to Murray, the grant from the National Science Foundation will underwrite a Trailblazer Scholars program for nontraditional students who have dependents and are interested in pursuing a degree in the fields of science, technology, engineering or mathematics.

Murray's co-investigators in the project include, at Marshall, Dr. James Leonard of the Geography Department; Brian Morgan of IST; Dr. Patricia Logan of the College of Information Technology and Engineering; and at MCTC, Dr. Randall Jones of the Information Technology program and Dr. Jason Black of the Bioscience program.

Beginning in the fall 2010 semester, full scholarships (up to \$8,500 above and beyond Pell Grant or other government financial assistance) will be awarded to at least 15 students. In addition to being responsible for dependents, applicants to the Trailblazer Scholars program must have a track record of academic accomplish-

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### *Microscope System to be Purchased*

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded a Marshall University scientist a \$930,000 grant to purchase a high-end microscope system for use by researchers and students in a broad range of studies.

The grant to Dr. Michael Norton, director of the Molecular and Biological Imaging Center in the Robert C. Byrd Biotechnology Science Center, was funded competitively through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

According to Norton, not only will the confocal/multiphoton system replace a 13-year-old microscope, it also will provide entirely new capabilities, greatly enhancing the services the center can make available to members of the university's research community.

"Over the past several years, Marshall has been strategically working to improve its research programs and facilities, and this new instrumentation is a big leap forward for our imaging center," he said. "I'm pleased the NSF chose to fund our proposal and look forward to working with my colleagues to enhance their research."

Norton said the new equipment will be useful in projects from a variety of biological and biochemical fields, including neurobiology, genetics, physiology, molecular biology and bioengineering. He noted the

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# Autism Center Executive Director Travels to Taiwan

The West Virginia Autism Training Center at Marshall recently gained international recognition for its unique approach to providing children with autism and their families with the ability to lead happy and productive lives.

Dr. Barbara Becker-Cottrill, executive director of the Autism Training Center, recently returned from a meeting of the Chinese Community Psychiatry Workshop in Taiwan where she shared information about how the West Virginia Autism Training Center best works with the families of children with autism. She said the shared information comes at a critical time for the Taiwanese culture, as their rates of prevalence of autism spectrum disorders are under review.

"It was an honor to be invited to share our good work with the Taiwanese community," Becker-Cottrill said. "The first study to determine the prevalence of autism spectrum disorders is under way in Taiwan. I anticipate that their prevalence rates will be similar to ours in the United States – approximately one in 100. Their government appears to be keenly aware that services for this population of individuals will be critical."

Becker-Cottrill made two presentations during the workshop, which took place in the Calo Psychiatric

Center in Taiwan. During the first, she spoke to a group of about 100 special education teachers at the Kaohsiung Medical University about educating students on the autism spectrum. The second presentation was geared to a smaller group during a series of community based seminars and addressed how the Autism Training Center successfully serves families with autism in West Virginia and how to further enhance development of similar services in Taiwan.

She explained how the center utilizes a comprehensive service delivery model that is highly individualized for each family and child. Key features of this model include family and person-centered planning; building a team for the person with the autism spectrum disorder; and developing and implementing a comprehensive behavior support plan for the person with the disorder.

"I learned that much of the current system to help families of children with autism spectrum disorders in Taiwan is clinic-based. They were very interested in how the center at Marshall University provides community-based therapeutic services in homes and schools across our state," she said. "It was also a pleasure to speak to special educators and psychologists and psychology students at Kaohsiung Medical University. They wanted

to learn more evidence-based practices for teaching students with autism spectrum disorders and, specifically, about using applied behavior analysis in their classrooms and their practices."

The West Virginia Autism Training Center at Marshall was established through the efforts of parents of children with autism throughout West Virginia. In 1983, the West Virginia Legislature established the Autism Training Center at Marshall University in Huntington. Since then, more than 1,800 families of children with autism have registered for services from the center.



*Dr. Barbara Becker-Cottrill, third from the right in the front row, poses for a picture with participants in the Chinese Community Psychiatry Workshop in Taiwan.*

## WE ARE... MARSHALL®



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The next regular issue of *We Are...Marshall!* will carry an issue date of Jan. 22, 2010. Deadline is Jan. 15. Articles or other materials for consideration should be sent to Pat Dickson, editor, at the South Charleston campus or by e-mail to [pdickson@marshall.edu](mailto:pdickson@marshall.edu).

## Staff Council Seeks Candidates

Nominations for several vacant unexpired terms on the Classified Staff Council are now being accepted. Nomination forms have been sent by campus mail to groups in which vacancies exist.

The forms should be returned to Joe Wortham, chair of the Classified Staff Council Election Committee, no later than 4:30 p.m., Monday, January 25. No nominations will be accepted after that time. Those elected will serve until June 30, 2011.

Groups with vacancies include: Group 30, Other Professionals, one position; Group 40, Technical and Paraprofessionals, one position; Group 60/70, Skilled Crafts and Service Maintenance, two positions.

Paper voting will be Tuesday, Feb. 9 (MUGC Monday Feb. 8 and Tuesday, Feb. 9) at the following locations:

Main Campus Mail Services, Plant Operations Office, Residence Services, Front Desk, Joan C. Edwards, SOM,

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## Profile: Mary Bowsher

*A series on interesting Marshall University people.*



Mary Bowsher

The thin little Bassett Hound with the soulful eyes knew exactly where to go. A homeless vagabond, she flitted timidly around the Drinko Library until, not surprisingly, she caught the eye of Mary Bowsher, who immediately scooped her up and took her home to join the family menagerie, which has grown to include eight cats and three dogs.

Betsy, now flourishing, was pitifully malnourished when the compassionate Bowsher rescued her, as she has several of the other animals the family has taken in. There are needy animals out there everywhere and when it comes to finding homes, they seem to have the tender-hearted Bowsher family on their radar screens. Even an ordinary car trip can result in an unexpected and unplanned new pet. "I was driving on Rt. 60 and I saw this lady with a hatchback on the K-Mart parking lot giving away puppies. I couldn't resist so now we have Chloe who is a six-month old Border collie mix," she says with her characteristic cheerfulness.

Bowsher, who is a Library Technical Assistant, marked her 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Marshall last August. Born in Charleston, the daughter of a Methodist minister, she lived a somewhat nomadic life as a child, moving around the state whenever her father was assigned different churches. After graduating from Morgantown High School, Bowsher worked at a variety of jobs, finally landing in Huntington where her father was pastoring a local church. She soon joined the Marshall library staff, following in the footsteps of her mother, Sara Wilson, who was a long-time employee of the Music Library before her retirement.

"I primarily handle EZ- Borrow, which is a system that allows students to borrow materials from other university libraries. It's similar to interlibrary loan. The demand is growing; it's getting bigger every year, so I stay busy. I take care of the loan processing aspects of EZ-Borrow," she says.

Today the family, which includes her husband Michael, a math teacher at Cabell-Midland High School, stays occupied in caring for their brood. She also has a son, John Mark Curtis, who resides in Huntington.

The animals come to the Bowshers by accident or occasionally by design, when they'll take in an animal that might otherwise end up in a shelter. They just can't turn their back on a needy animal. Even Betsy, the Drinko hound, managed to get in on the act. "Betsy kept barking and barking at our fence,

*(continued on page 4)*

## Mak Receives National Service Award from AAHPERD

Dr. Jennifer Y. Mak, professor and director of sport management at Marshall University, has received a national service award from the Research Consortium of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD). The Research Consortium is a group of more than 5,500 research scholars and other members of AAHPERD who have a strong interest in research.



Dr. Jennifer Mak

"It is my pleasure to serve my colleagues at a national level. It is very encouraging to be recognized by peers for my contributions to the Research Consortium," Mak said. "I will continue to work hard and serve the profession. My recognition is only one example of Marshall's national prominence for excellence in the areas of high quality teaching, research and service."

Mak has assumed a variety of leadership roles in her field. For example, she has been the executive board member of the AAHERD Research Consortium, the President of West Virginia AHPERD, the Convention Chairperson for different conferences, Director of Sports Education Camps for Students who are Visually Impaired, Editorial Review Board member and reviewer for several journals and national conventions. In addition, Mak received the 2009 Scholar Award from West Virginia Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (West Virginia AHPERD).

Mak has been honored with numerous awards such as the Scholar Awards from both the College of Education and Human Services and the Mid-West District of AAHPERD; induction as a Fellow from AAHPERD Research Consortium; the AAHPERD Mabel Lee Award

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## Microscoping System from Page 1

microscope will also be used in a number of the university's science outreach programs, including the Biomedical Sciences Summer Research Internship for Minority Students and the IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence.

President Stephen J. Kopp said the award is significant because in addition to providing faculty and students with access to state-of-the-art equipment, it also will help make the university's core research facilities more competitive for the recruitment of future researchers.

"Every step we make toward improving our research capabilities makes us increasingly competitive in our efforts to attract more top-notch scientists and students to Marshall," he added. "Congratulations to Dr. Norton and his colleagues for their exemplary efforts to secure funding for this equipment."

## Mary Bowsher

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she wouldn't stop until I went out to see what the commotion was about," Bowsher remembers. "There was this tiny little kitten on the other side of the fence, so of course I picked it up and brought it in." No surprise there for anyone who knows Mary Bowsher.

It's not cheap looking after a zoo of this size and it requires a lot of dedication and patience on the parts of this tender-hearted family. But they feel their animal companions are great gifts, so the family readily takes on the challenges of maintaining their large furry family. "It is expensive to feed them all and when you add to that the vet bills, it means that taking care of this many animals does require quite a bit of time and effort," she admits. "They all get their shots and they go to the vet when they're sick." Some of them require special treatment such as Embers, a cat that was misdiagnosed as being diabetic. "I had to give her two shots a day which she actually tolerated very well. Finally I got a second opinion and it turned out she wasn't diabetic after all, she just had Bartonella which affected the pancreas and caused the symptoms of diabetes. I don't know who was more relieved by the new diagnosis, her or me!"

Michael, who fortunately is as much an animal lover as his wife, has always been involved with the Boy Scouts and still gives much time to that group. In fact the Bowshers were married four years ago at the Boy Scout camp in Ona by her father. They're members of the Baptist Temple Church in Huntington where Michael's Boy Scout troop is located and where she's active on the daycare committee.

"Working and taking care of our animals are my two main priorities. We take good care of them," she says thoughtfully. "I've enjoyed my years at the library. I like working with students and the staff. We've come so far technologically in my years at Marshall. I started out with typewriters and clunky copy machines and now everything is computerized. We're able to provide really good service to the students and faculty."

Actually things are going pretty well these days, she says. "The only thing I could wish for is to put my vet on a retainer!"

## Dr. Jennifer Mak

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for the outstanding young professor of the year; the MU Distinguished Artists & Scholars Award junior recipient; and the Honor Award from the West Virginia AHPERD. She also has joined other eminent scholars from outside Hong Kong to be named a University Fellow by Hong Kong Baptist University.

The American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) is the largest organization of professionals supporting and assisting those involved in physical education, leisure, fitness, dance, health promotion, and education and all specialties related to achieving a healthy lifestyle. AAHPERD is an alliance of five national associations, six district associations and a research consortium and is designed to provide members with a comprehensive and coordinated array of resources, support, and programs to help practitioners improve their skills and so further the health and well-being of the American public.

## Martin Luther King Celebration

from Page 1

in Africa. We'll be shipping them the week of Dr. King's birthday celebration."

Giving back to the community and serving others are appropriate ways to pay tribute to Dr. King's life, Clarke believes. "Dr. King was very multi-faceted and he had a commitment to the revitalization of the community and to service to the community so that is our focus this year."

An important part of the celebration is a candlelight ceremony at 6 p.m. at the 16<sup>th</sup> St. Baptist Church at 1647 Ninth Ave Dr. Phillip D. Williams, pastor and church consultant will deliver the keynote address, "The Church, A Headlight and A Voice." Williams is pastor of church planting for Community Bible Church and principal for Williams Church Consulting Group, both located in San Antonio, Texas. A professor at Rockbridge Seminary in Springfield, Mo, he has lectured widely and is the author of several Christian books. He was awarded the Doctor of Ministry Award for Academic Excellence from Howard University in Washington, D.C.

In addition, Rabbi David Wucher of B'nai Sholom Congregation in Huntington and Dr. Majed Khader of the Muslim Association of Huntington will speak and the Unity in the Community Choir will perform.

"All of these events are free and open to the public," added Clarke. "We invite people to come out and join us, and don't forget to bring a new toothbrush!"

## Staff Council

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Deans Office, Suite 3408, MUGC South Charleston campus, Copy Center.

Night shift voting will take place Tuesday, Feb. 9 in the Old Main Custodial Room and the Henderson Center Custodial Room. Electronic voting will be from 8 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 11 to midnight, Sunday, Feb. 14.

For additional information, contact Wortham at ext. 6-5402.

## Nontraditional Students

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ments at the high school and/or college level and demonstrate financial need.

"The program is being designed for smart, motivated nontraditional students who are unemployed or employed in low-wage, unskilled jobs with no real room for advancement," said Murray. "If they are eager for a challenge, we will help them succeed and earn a degree in a high-tech field at either Marshall University or MCTC."

In addition to financial assistance, other support, including mentoring and enrichment programs, will be provided to increase the likelihood scholarship recipients will be successful in the program.

She added, "Not only will this program improve educational opportunities and student services for nontraditional students at both Marshall and MCTC, and build a stronger relationship between the two institutions, but it will also help expand the technical and science-based workforce in the region. That is important if we are going to improve the economic climate in our communities."

Students interested in applying for the Trailblazer Scholars program should contact either Murray at [murraye@marshall.edu](mailto:murraye@marshall.edu) or 63515 or Black at [blackj@mctc.edu](mailto:blackj@mctc.edu) or 304-696-3889.